

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0118

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15528

LIMDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VT, RO

SUBJECT: VATICAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS

REF: ROME 9422, ROME 10233

1. VATICAN OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT VATICAN EAST EUROPEAN SPECIALIST ARCHBISHOP POGGI WOULD DEPART OCTOBER 8 FOR TWO-WEEK VISIT TO ROMANIA AT INVITATION OF GOR. WHILE IN ROMANIA POGGI AND VATICAN DELEGATION WOULD REOPEN DIALOGUE ON CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS WHICH WAS SUSPENDED IN 1974.

2. VATICAN, WHICH HAS AGREED NOT TO RAISE ISSUE OF STATUS OF GRECO-CATHOLIC CHURCH AT THIS TIME, EXPECTS TO DISCUSS FOLLOWING KEY ISSUES: (A) INCREASING NUMBER OF CATHOLIC DIOCESES TO 4 OR 5 FROM TWO EXISTING PRESENTLY; (B) GET AGREEMENT ON THE NOMINATION OF THREE NEW BISHOPS (ONE EACH FOR BUCHAREST, TIMISORA AND JASI; (C) INITIATE DISCUSSION ON FORM AND CONTENT OF "STATUTO" -- THAT IS THE INSTRUMENT UNDER WHICH CATHOLIC CHURCH WOULD BE OPERATING IN ROMANIA.

3. COMMENT: VATICAN OFFICIAL WAS OPTIMISTIC REGARDING OUTCOME OF THE TALKS ON BASIS OF PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS FROM
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ROMANIAN EMBASSY CONTACTS IN ROME. ANOTHER REASON FOR OPTIMISM

IS DESIRE OF PRESIDENT CEUCESCU TO HAVE VATICAN FOR MIN CASAROLI
VISIT ROMANIA NEXT YEAR PRIOR TO CSCE CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE.
CASAROLI APPARENTLY HAS INFORMED GOR THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT
INVITATION UNLESS SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE ON OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS.
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